

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/475,262

Examiner

Dwin M Craig

Applicant(s)

ROBERTS, BEN D.

Art Unit

2123

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 6-8-2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-63.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 30 December 1999 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

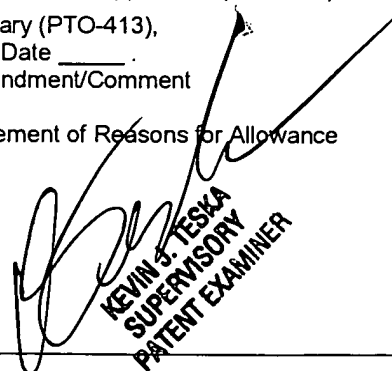
* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


KEVIN S. TESKA
SUPERVISORY
PATENT EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

And

Notice of Allowance

1. Claims 1-63 are allowed.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

2.1 The prior art does not expressly teach or make obvious the claimed invention of Independent Claims 1, 18, 28, 33, 50 and 60. Specifically, the allowable subject matter disclosed in the independent claims where it is claimed that, "*a method comprising: creating a string that models a trace having cross capacitance*" directed towards the simulation of circuit traces on an integrated circuit, that is going to be fabricated, is a non-obvious improvement over the prior art. Further, the use of a string model for modeling *physical structures* in an integrated circuit is known in the art as disclosed by the *Nakamura reference U.S. Patent 6,192,330*, however, as argued by the Applicant, *see the response dated 8 June 2004, page 18*, that the *Nakamura reference* is directed towards, "...*invention of Nakamura is "recognizing and simulating two-dimensional shapes in evaluating semiconductor elements."* (*emphasis added*) (*Nakamura, col. 1, ln. 9-11*)", as opposed to Applicant's amended claim language which claims that the "*string model*" being used is for modeling, "*a [circuit] trace having cross capacitance*". The Examiner asserts that this new use of a string model in combination with the limitation of "*simulating the application of an applied noise voltage to at least one of said cross capacitors*" is a non-obvious modification over the prior art and is therefore allowable subject matter. Furthermore, Applicant's admittance, interpretation of the prior art asserted and arguments recited in the

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responses to the Examiner's Office actions in combination with the instant amendments are considered persuasive so as to overcome the prior art. Dependent Claims 2-17, 19-27, 29-32, 34-49 51-59 and 61-63 are allowable as they depend from allowable base claims.

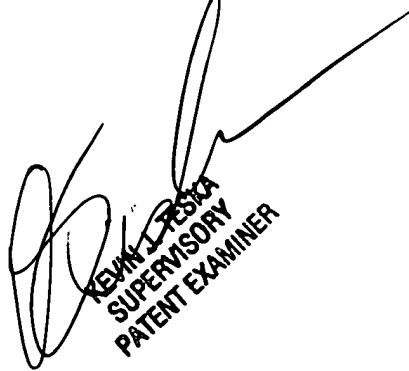
2.1 Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. U.S. Patent 5,729,466 *Bamji* discloses a piecewise linear method of modeling circuit elements (**Figure 7**).

3.1 Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dwin M Craig whose telephone number is 703 305-7150. The examiner can normally be reached on 10:00 - 6:00 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kevin Teska can be reached on 703 305-9704. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.



KEVIN J. TESKA
SUPERVISORY
PATENT EXAMINER

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

DMC